

BENT RIM BUGLE



Bent Rim Bugle Published For the Michigan Mountain Biking Association

Vol. 10 No. 4

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• MICHIGAN MOUNTAIN BIKING ASSOCIATION •

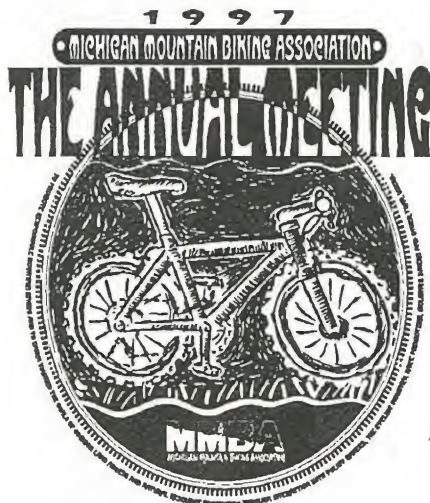
THE ANNUAL MEETING



After you have exhausted what there is in business, politics, conviviality, and so on and have found that none of these satisfy, or permanently wear - what remains? Nature remains. Walt Whitman

This Month's Cover Info...

The cover of this Month's BRB is the artwork found on the 1997 Annual Meeting Limited Edition T-Shirt. This makes Annual Meeting T-shirt # 3. The color of this year's shirt is totally unique, and as always, very cool. The artwork was done by none other than Dan Clark. Dan has done all 3 annual meeting T-shirts, as well as tons of artwork for the Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) and other cool magazines (like Dirt Rag) as well as a load of corporate work. As always, thanks Dan. To get your limited edition shirt send \$17.00 to MMBA-Annual Meeting Shirt, P.O. Box 29 Belmont MI 49306 and don't forget to tell us who to send it to (aka: your return address...).



1997 Annual Meeting

You Are Riding With the Best!

This year's annual meeting was another major event. Well over 350 people were in attendance involved in lots of fun activities, including a roller riding fun event and an antique bike show. Many mountain bikers took advantage of the swap meet and lots of bikes, bike parts and money changed hands. Points Series Champions received their recognition in front of a cheering crowd of their peers, as the best racers in Michigan. MMBA volunteers also received their awards from their local chapter and a volunteer of the year was selected by your MMBA board members (see pg. 22). It was a hard choice, considering the level of commitment of some volunteers out there. A Trek Y50 Frame was given away to a lucky attendee who just decided to check out this year's annual meeting and walked away with a \$1,200 frame-set. There were industry represen-



Randy Estes (Holly Chapter), Jim Hansenauer (IMBA) and Kirk Costello (Holly Chapter) beginning a winter walking tour of the Holdridge Lakes Trail, in Holly MI.

tatives there, and a few bike shops sharing previews of what's new for 1997, with all those who showed up. MMBA Chapters also had booths set up with extensive info on what was accomplished last year including what events and activities will be happening this year. There was even an award for the most elaborate and decorated booth at the 1997 Annual Meeting - the booth winners where those representing the Southeast Chapter of the MMBA.

Our annual meeting speaker this year was Jim Hasenauer, Educational Director for IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association). To a standing room only crowd, Jim shared a very dynamic presentation about the national impact of the MMBA as a virtually unequaled model program combining forest preservation, land access, trail maintenance, racing, events and public awareness into a single powerful organization. Jim also shared IMBA's powerful vision of 20/20/20, which incorporates the concept of a mountain bikers' responsibility as a member of the trail-

user community.

The 20/20/20 vision promotes the concept that every mountain biker should first join their local land access organization, here in Michigan that would be the MMBA, of course. This is where the first "20" comes from. If you ride public trails in Michigan you need to give \$0.06 a day to the MMBA (\$22.00 a year).

Without your membership in the MMBA, there is no accurate and consistently accountable way to give land managers a "real" number of how many mountain bikers there are in Michigan. Without this information, your

*"When you see this
IMBA/Subaru vehicle,
it will serve as a re-
minder that the vision
for a strong, healthy
trail system is out
there and support is
growing."*

local land managers are at a disadvantage. They have a hard time convincing those who hand out the financial resources to care for, maintain and develop our public land and that mountain biking deserves a piece of the "resource" pie. As your MMBA Executive Director, I travel to dozens of meetings (thousands of miles) making sure when the hands are counted I am there representing you.

BENT RIM BUGLE



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Dwain Abramowski

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Christina - As always thank you

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Fred Tyszka, MDNR

Special Thanks To

Castelli Publications/

Michigan Cyclist

Jeff Potter (I'm a slow learner Jeff, "I always wanted to be somebody, but I should have been more specific..." Lily Tomlin
no Jeff, I mean really slow)

Support: Don Lee

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Gringo Honeymoon

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Mother Nature -

Use them wisely

This mag. is printed

on recycled paper

Some recreational groups have numbers above the 3,000 or 5,000 member mark. When they raise their hands, they command a lot of attention. At the start of 1997 we had about 1,400 members. We need three times that many in our organization.

The "number" of mountain bikers are there, without a doubt, but they need to express themselves as members of the MMBA, so that they can be officially counted and our needs and goals in resource development and trails can be effectively voiced. In a nutshell, the world is run by those who show up. Our voice can be 1,400 strong or 5,000 plus. It's up to each one of you. If each one of you who is an MMBA member found one more

member to join, we'd be well on our way.

The second "20" represents the same reality of representation on a national level. Mountain bikers need representation when it comes to federal lands, too: National Forests (ie. The North Country Trail), National Parks, BLM lands, Greenway Development, ISTEAFunds, National Trails Act Funds, Federal Wilderness Areas etc.. So that means about \$0.12 a day (\$22.00 to the MMBA plus \$20.00 to IMBA). Most of us probably spend that much money just making coffee each day or listening to music. (And what fun would coffee and good music be if we couldn't punctuate those blessed moments with a mountain bike ride in the primitiveness of nature?)

The last "20" in the vision

(Annual Meeting Continued on pg. 22)



The Adventurous Souls-Jamie Padgett (Lt)
Erick Isaacsen (Rt)

Bike Shop Connection...

By: Eric Isaacsen

I suppose that before I begin this story, I should start at the beginning.

For two years I have been doing some mountain biking. This past spring I needed a new car and found the Jetta Trek with a new bike thrown in for good measure. I had never been in a bike shop for any specific purpose in the past so when I took delivery of my new Jetta, I had the unique opportunity to visit a real, live bike shop for the first time. You see, my first two bikes were purchased at a pawn shop and sportings goods store respectively. Well anyhow, I ventured into the legendary Planet Cycle in Southgate, Michigan and met Rob, the store manager.

Rob was excited about me taking delivery of my new Trek because he had just purchased the similar Jetta Trek from Melton Motors, however, he had a tricked out bike already. When

we discussed me getting "fitted" to my new bike, I had visions of tape measures, chalk marks and pins all over the place. Instead, what I found was a straightforward explanation of the inner workings of real mountain biking, and the necessities of having properly-fitted equipment with a professional conducting my training course, and providing good advice.

The bike arrived about two weeks later and I went down to pick it up. When I got there, Rob and I discussed different places to ride to get the most out of riding. My only previous experiences had been at Maybury State Park. Although Maybury is fun and, from what I hear, technical, I was still seeking different places to ride. After hearing about the different trips Rob had taken, including a trip to West Virginia to a place he referred to as Mecca, I was hooked on mountain biking and the pleasure of riding on a real mountain bike,

under the supervision of an experienced mountain bike rider, Rob, and visiting different locations.

As the season wore on, I continued getting information and the occasional bike accessory from Rob. We started to discuss winter riding and the differences between chains and getting the tires studded. Rob suggested placing 3/8 inch sheet metal screws in the tires as opposed to every other suggestion I had received. Other bike shops I visited told me to go to a motocross shop and buy studs, or to purchase the commercially available tire chains. Options, yes, but I chose not to explore them.

I followed Rob's advice. Armed with my fully-charged, battery-operated portable driver I set out to stud my tires. It took several additional trips to the hardware store, and recharging my portable driver a few times before I had fully studded my tires and tested them out. Be-



The end of the ride, but just the beginning
of a continuing adventure!

cause I am the adventurous type, I opted for a northern spot to do the "acid test". I selected Pigeon River State Forest, right in the middle of Elk country as my testing ground.

So as not to be entirely self abusive, I suggested to my step son, who lives in Grayling, that he accompany me on my adventure in the north country. You see, his tires weren't studded and I wanted to be able to justify to my wife that the hours in front of the TV screwing around with my tires, were worth it. Our adventure started at the Headquarters and trailhead of this route. While the route is fairly well-marked with blue markers, it was a challenge throughout some of the route finding the trail. Some of the trail passes over unmarked and uncharted logging roads and the blue markers seemed to disappear into the wilderness.

We took a shorter 6 mile loop and that was sufficient to work up a real sweat and go through a whole bottle of water. The surface was partially snow covered, partially mud and partially leaf and pine needle covered. Those combinations proved to be a real test of the

studding job I had undertaken. My tires didn't slip during downhill runs, nor did I have any trouble making it up most uphill climbs. There was only one

*The trail wound its way
through the forest and
along part of the Pigeon
River, making this trip the
best trip I had taken so far.
It was both challenging
and peaceful at the same
time.*

uphill climb that I didn't make and I don't think that most recreational riders could have made it. The entire hill was sandy, rocky, pine-needle covered with about two inches of snow on top, so it made just walking very painstaking and slow.

The trail wound its way through the forest and along part of the Pigeon River, making this trip the best trip I had taken so far. It was both challenging and peaceful at the same time. The weather was cooperating, provid-

ing a sunny afternoon to check out this magnificent piece of landscape in northern Michigan. While no elk were spotted, we were able to see many tracks of both deer and elk on our adventure.

I would highly recommend this trip to anyone interested in checking out some of the best scenery and riding Michigan has to offer.

Ed. Note: The Pigeon River State Forest is a State wilderness Area and a very beautiful magical place. **Being a State Wilderness Area, special care should be noted when riding the area. If temperatures thaw the ground, studded tires should be replaced with regular knobbies. In extremely muddy conditions, excursions should be limited to forest roads in the Pigeon River area until conditions freeze up again or dry out later in the spring.** Always check with the forest rangers for current conditions and restrictions (517-983-4101). **Above all, follow the MMBA Code implicitly-** see below. Remember rule number 11, when riding on any trail any time of the year.

BENT RIM BUGLE PUBLISHING INFO

The Bent Rim Bugle (BRB) is published 4 times a year (quarterly) Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. The BRB is the source for news and information for the Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA). Articles come from MMBA members, MMBA Chapter Presidents, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other sources. The focus of the BRB is on what is of interest to MMBA members as well as environmental issues, land access, mountain biking events, rides, competition, fun and other activities and information related to the mountain biking.

Editorial contributions and photos are welcomed, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by proper postage. Send contributions to: **MMBA/BRB P.O. Box 29, Belmont MI 49306.** The BRB also can provide classified ads to MMBA members for free and advertising space to shops and manufactures. **For deadlines and rates contact the address above or call, (616) 785-0120 or AOL E-Mail: Go MMBA@aol.com. (Net: Go_MMBA@aol.com) MMBA Web site: <http://www.mmba.org>.**

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the MMBA, Publisher, and/or MMBA members, Dealers, or Sponsors. In other words, lighten-up it's mountain biking not world hunger... Copyright, Feb.1996, all rights reserved. reserved..Yadi..Yadi..Ya....

MMBA Responsibility Code

1. Always yield the right of way to other trail users.
2. Slow down and pass with care (or stop).
3. Control your speed at all times.
4. Stay on designated trails.
5. Don't disturb wildlife or livestock.
6. Pack out litter.
7. Respect public and private property.
8. Know local rules.
9. Plan ahead.
10. Avoid riding in large groups.
11. Minimize impact.
12. Report incidents of trail impasse to local park authorities.

IMBA AND SUBARU CREATE PARTNERSHIP TO PROMOTE MOUNTAIN BIKING AND IMPROVE TRAILS

Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew to Begin Nationwide Tour in March Boulder, CO and Cherry Hill, NJ—

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) and Subaru of America, Inc. (SOA) announced an innovative two-year partnership today that will promote mountain biking and encourage volunteer trailwork throughout the United States.

The backbone of this new cooperative effort is the formation of the Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew—a two-person team of trail construction and maintenance experts who will travel throughout the U.S., March through November, in a Subaru Legacy Outback. The crew will lead volunteer trailwork sessions, encourage public participation in trail maintenance and cleanup, and promote responsible mountain bike riding by cyclists of all ages.

For IMBA, a nonprofit trails advocacy group formed in 1988, the debut of the Trail Care Crew is a dream come true. “We call this project “The Johnny Appleseed of Mountain Biking effort,” said Tim Blumenthal, executive director of IMBA. “We can’t think of a better way to promote responsible trail use and encourage cyclists to get more involved in preserving their local trails. Subaru, with its long involvement in cycling and its tremendous popularity among mountain

bikers, is the perfect partner for this project.”

The Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew will debut at the Specialized Cactus Cup in Phoenix, Arizona, March 14-16. The Crew will first travel through New Mexico and Texas, then along the Gulf Coast, stopping at regular intervals to meet with trail managers and to lead weekend trailwork sessions that involve the public. As the weather improves in the North, the Crew will head into the Mid-Atlantic states, then New England, then work slowly westward into the Midwest, the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountain states, finally reaching the Pacific coast. By time the Crew completes its coast-to-coast tour in November, it will have participated in more than 80 trail events, interacted with hundreds of land managers, and inspired thousands of cyclists and other trail users to volunteer on behalf of trails.

“This new alliance with IMBA is part of Subaru’s growing commitment to cycling,” said Subaru of America marketing manager, Tim Mahoney. “Cyclists of all types—road riders, mountain bikers, commuters, families—appreciate the performance, comfort, and style of



I·M·B·A

For more information on IMBA
303-545-9011

IMBA

P.O. Box 7578

Boulder, CO 80306-7578

E-Mail: imba@aol.com

See related story on how Michigan is connected to the IMBA and Subaru Goal! See the story on page 2 and look for the IMBA/Subaru soon!

Subaru all-wheel-drive vehicles. We’re confident that our partnership with IMBA will strengthen this affinity and also improve trails and IMBA’s work.”

Subaru, an IMBA Industry Member, joins more than 100 companies who already support this international advocacy group. Subaru also becomes “The Official Car of IMBA” for the next two years. Subaru will promote the Trail Care Crew and IMBA in its biannual owner’s publication, **Drive**. IMBA will coordinate the Crew’s travel schedule, provide trail construction and management materials for distribution to land managers, and publicize the Crew in the cycling and outdoors press. IMBA members who purchase a Subaru during the term of this agreement will receive an added security basic maintenance contract at no charge.

Subaru of America, based in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries of Japan and markets its vehicles through a network of 630 dealerships throughout the country. IMBA, based in Boulder, Colorado, includes a grass-roots network of nearly 300 bicycle clubs that have more than 60,000 total members.

Action Heroes Auction To Help IMBA Keep Your Trails Open.



1.) Duck into a nearby phone booth. (Or hop behind a P.C.)
2.) Use your almighty Credit-Card Maxing Action™ (or we'll gladly accept cash) to place a bid on the Shimano® Action Hero (or Heroes) of your choice. Yes, the same one-of-a-kind superstars that were actually used in the



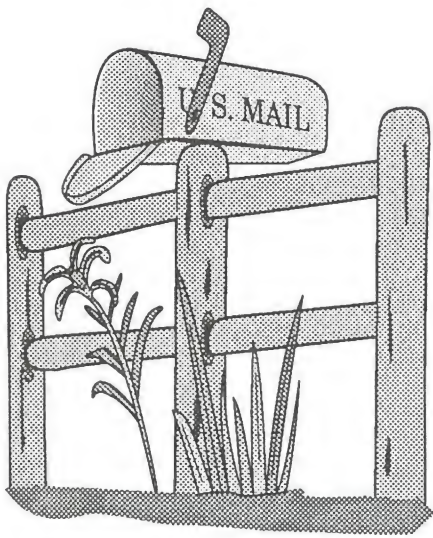
ads can now be yours, all yours. *Heb, heb, heb...*

3.) In the end, the one wielding the greatest purchase power gets to ride off into the sunset with his supergirl (or guy), secure in the knowledge that the trails are safe for yet another day.

All proceeds benefit the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

All bids must be received no later than March 15, 1997. IMBA, P.O. Box 7578, Boulder, CO 80306. Phone: 303-545-9011. Fax: 303-545-9026. E-mail: imba@aol.com. Each Shimano Action Hero is a one-of-a-kind work of art based on one-of-a-kind MTB racing personalities. The figures, with base, stand 22" tall and are made of solid modeling resin. There are 14 in all. Each is handmade, rendered in painstaking detail by Propwerks, a Seattle-based motion picture props company, and costs approximately \$3,000 to create.

Note: A bid of a just a hundred bucks might land you one of these cool representations of mountain biking's finest/fun riders! It's for a good cause and even if you're late with your bid you never know! Call IMBA at 303-545-9011



Letter # 1

About Time and Mountain Biking

Time, like money, is one of two precious commodities in life that you never seem to have enough of. Time spent on a mountain bike is very rewarding compared to how you may spend it the rest of the day. Talk about quality time! I truly love spending as much time as possible riding my bike along a twisting, turning, swooping and gnarly singletrack. It is one of the best feelings you can get from riding on two wheels.

Last summer was a very busy one for me as I was spending most of my time between by job and helping with our new baby daughter. There was hardly anytime left over to go riding on my brand new full-suspension bike. Bummer! With a family, it's a matter of us juggling responsibilities to fit in time to ride. Those times that you can break away from the daily routine and head for the woods become much more important and cherished. In Michigan, like many other states, you can only ride about 6-7 months of the year in "decent" weather, so the total length of the

riding season is limited and you should never take a nice summer day for granted. Everyone should spend more time on a good mountain bike, it soothes the soul, builds your stamina and exercises your most important muscle, the heart. As a side note, don't forget to spend at least one of those days maintaining our beautiful Michigan trails.

Gary D. Anderson
Potawatomi Chapter

Letter # 2

The new issue is great!!! Your summary of last year's accomplishments was well done. The article about the meetings and your comment "the world is run by those who show up" is especially important. We can't be a "voice" for mountain biking if we don't attend meetings that effect mountain biking. You should promote that statement in future issues and at the annual meeting.

Dennis Hansen, Mid-State

Letter # 3

Thanks for your time/energy/ money put into the MMBA and in meeting with us to discuss the Pere Marquette Trail in TC last winter.

Until the bypass proposal came along, my attitude was to keep the single tracks unmarked. Now that a bypass cutting through the forest has real potential, marking the single track is one of the best ways to get more people into the forest, resulting in more voices against the bypass. Under the Umbrella of the MMBA, and with the efforts of Dennis Bean-Larson it looks like

it will happen.

Again, thanks for making the trip up here and for your input. I am enjoying the Bugle, but sorry to admit that this is the first time I've read it....nice work!

Sincerely, Ed Andres

Letter # 4

Dear Friends:

I wanted to let you know that I have decided to retire from the Forest Service on March 1. I could not leave without expressing my appreciation for the support and assistance you have given me during my time as Forest Supervisor. I value the time we were able to spend together and the memories of our association will be with me always.

The Friends of the Forests is truly a unique group and the Huron-Manistee National Forests are fortunate to have you as friends. Your personal involvement in the Friends helps make the National Forests better for all of us. "Thanks" does not adequately express my gratitude for the time and energy you have devoted to the management of the Huron-Manistee National Forests. However, I wish to express my heartfelt thank you for your efforts.

I am proud to have been associated with you and encourage you to stay involved with the Friends. Your help and involvement will ensure the continued success of the Friends of the Forests and the Huron-Manistee National Forests. Thank you.
Sincerely,
STEPHEN A. KELLEY
Forest Supervisor- Huron/Manistee N.F.

Waiting for the trails to thaw? Why Wait - Ride a Rail-Trail!

By Paul Smith

While it's cold and snowy outside and we anxiously await the spring, take heart in the fact that there are some new rail trails being developed and may be ready in 1997. Here is a highlight of a few trails that have been acquisitioned and are being worked on for completion :

Leelanau Trail :

Anyone from the Grand Traverse Area has an opinion of the Leelanau Trail. It has been one of the most hotly-contested Rail-Trails in the country, and has been subjected to nearly every step of the Michigan Court System. The Leelanau Trail is located in the Leelanau Peninsula and runs from Greilickville to Suttons Bay. It is over 15 miles long and winds through Leelanau's rolling hills, passing forests, orchards, meadows, lakes and ponds. Plans are to pave the entire pathway. For more information, contact the Leelanau Trails Association, PO Box 580, Suttons Bay, MI 49682.

Betsie Valley Trail :

Another hotly-contested trail that was settled out of court: this trail runs from Elberta and Frankfort through Beluah and Benzonia to Thompsonville. It passes around Betsie Bay, over and along the Betsie River, beside Crystal Lake and through 15 miles of forested terrain in Eastern Benzie County. When complete, the trail will be over 22 miles long. For more information contact Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, PO Box 474,

Beulah, MI 49617.

Polly Ann Trail :

The court ruled in favor of this trail and preparation should be under way soon. This trail was part of the passenger train that ran from Pontiac to Caseville. The trail is over 32 miles long and runs from Lake Orion through Lapier County to Kings Mill. A proposed link to the ever popular Paint Creek Trail will make this trail one of the most popular rail trails in the state. For more information contact Addison Friends for the Polly Ann Trail, PO Box 594, Leonard, MI 48367.

The DNR has also purchased a few other abandoned railroad corridors, including a 26 mile Ottawa - Muskegon Rail Trail, an extension of the Kal Haven Trail that runs from South Haven to Hartford, as well as a 59 mile

Mackinac City to Hawks Trail. The DNR is also continuing its resurfacing of the 92 mile White Pine Trail that runs from Cadillac to Grand Rapids. Many portions of this trail should be complete sometime in 1997.



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MMBA Championship Point Series Rules



1. You must be an MMBA member and pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee **BEFORE** you will earn points in the series. You will only earn points from the date you pay the tabulation fee. First-year MMBA members should pay the race tabulation fee with their membership fee. All renewing members must pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee at the beginning of the race year, either at the Annual Membership meeting, or at the first race you want tabulated.

2. Racers must enter in the correct age category. Your race age is your age as of 12-31 of the current race year.

3. Racers must designate the race class in which they wish to compete.

BEGINNER - Racers with little or no experience in mountain bike racing. Most beginner racers will race in this class for their first year.

SPORT - Racers with one or more years experience in mountain bike racing, road racers with significant cycling experience,

those who have the skills and experience to race as a Sport rider.

EXPERT - Racers with significant race experience and fitness to race at a more competitive level than Sport.

ELITE - Top 5% of all racers. Your skill level and fitness should be such that you do not pose a hazard or impediment to other racers in this class.

There is no ELITE class for women, however, most promoters give cash awards for top finishers in the Expert Women class.

Racers may advance to a higher class during the race season by making a written request to the Competition Committee. This can be done by mail, at the MMBA tent at a race event, or via E-Mail by sending your request to the Point Series Director on the MMBA home

page (MMBA.org) on the Internet. Points earned prior to advancing to the higher class will be carried up to the new class. You cannot accumulate points in two classes in the same year. You may retain points earned in a lower class and race in a more advanced class by not requesting to move up to the more advanced class. Your points will remain in the lower class and you will **NOT** earn points in the more advanced class. **YOU MAY NOT MOVE TO A LOWER CLASS WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE COMPETITION COMMITTEE.**

4. Disputes regarding timing and scoring of an event must be resolved between the racer and promoter. It is the promoter's responsibility to communicate to MMBA any changes in their submitted scoring as a result of a racer dispute.

*You must be an MMBA member and pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee **BEFORE** you earn points in the series. You will only earn points from the date you pay the tabulation fee. First-year MMBA members should pay the race tabulation fee with their membership fee. All renewing members must pay the \$5.00 tabulation fee at the beginning of the race year, either at the Annual Membership meeting, or at the first race you want tabulated.*

Table 1

Racers earn points according to the following table:

PLACE	BEGINNER	SPORT	EXPERT	ELITE
1	30	60	120	240
2	27	54	108	216
3	24	48	96	192
4	21	42	84	168
5	19	38	76	152
6	17	34	68	132
7	15	30	60	120
8	13	26	52	104
9	12	24	48	96
10	11	22	44	88
11	10	20	40	80
12	9	18	36	72
13	8	16	32	64
14	7	14	28	56
15	6	12	24	48
16	5	10	20	40
17	4	8	16	32
18	3	6	12	24
19	2	4	8	16
20	1	2	4	8

The top 20 racers will also receive a bonus point for every Point Series' racer in their class. Promoters have the right to combine classes with fewer than 5 riders.



5. See Table 1-
6. The best nine (9) finishes will be counted.

7. The top three Point Series' winners in the following classes must move up to the next class:

All Beginners to Sport. Sport Seniors and Sport Veteran to Expert. All others do not have to move up. Exceptions to this rule must be requested in writing to the Competition Committee 30 days prior to the start of the first Point Series race.

8. Year end ties will be broken as follows:

1. Most MMBA Point Series races completed.

2. Winner of the most races in head-to-head competition.
3. Winner in the last race in which both riders competed head-to-head.

9. Final tabulations of the Point series will be mailed to all racers who participated in at least one event. Any disputes regarding the final tabulation must be submitted to the Competition Director by 12-15 of the current race year.

10. Awards to the top three finishers in each class will be presented at the Annual Membership Meeting in February.



4-6-97 DEEP THAW CLASSIC

Whiskey Creek, Ludington
Active Sports, (616)458-7345
FEE:\$20 by 3/31, \$25 day of.
Mass Start: 11:00am

4-20-97 DEEP LAKE TRAIL BENEFIT

Yankee Springs Recreation Area
Breakaway Bicycles, (616)349-5555
Tailwind Enterprises (810)634-6178
FEE:\$20 by 4/14, \$25 day of. REG. 8 to 9:30
Start 10am, KIDS RACE \$5/12pm

4-27-97 BOYNE CHALLENGE

Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 4/21, \$25 day of.
REG. 8am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Exp/Spt 11am, Beg 1:45pm
KIDS RACE \$5/12pm

5-4-97 FORT CUSTER STAMPEDE

Fort Custer Recreation Area, Augusta
Mike Needham, (616)731-4078
FEE:\$20 by 4/28, \$25 day of.
REG. 8am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Exp 10am, Sport 1pm, Beg 3:30pm,
KIDS RACE \$5/2pm

5-10-97 ITHACA CHALLENGE

Saturday Ithaca Fairgrounds, Ithaca
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 5/5, \$25 day of.
REG. 8am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Exp 10am, Sport 12pm, Beg 2pm
KIDS RACE \$5/1:30pm

5-18-97 ADDISON OAKS SPRING MTB RACE

Addison Oaks County Park, Leonard
Oakland County Parks, (810)858-4647
FEE:\$20 by 5/12, \$25 day of. REG.
9am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Beg 11am, Exp/Spt 1:30
KIDS RACE 10am

5-25-97 PANDO CHALLENGE

Pando Ski Area, Rockford
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 5/19, \$25 day of.
REG. 8am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Exp 10am, Spt 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm
KIDS RACE \$5/2:30pm

6-15-97 KEWEENAW CHAIN DRIVE

Houghton/Hancock Bridgefest
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 6/9, \$25 day of.
REG. 8am to 9:50am
START: 10am all classes 1 min intervals
KIDS RACE \$5/1:30pm

7-13-97 PANDO CHALLENGE

Pando Ski Area, Rockford
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 7/7, \$25 day of.
REG. 8am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Exp 10am, Spt 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm
KIDS RACE \$5/2:30pm

7-27-97 PONTIAC LAKE TIME TRIAL

Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, Waterford
Tailwind Promotions, (810)634-6178
FEE:\$20.00 by 7/21, \$25.00 day of.
REG. 8-10:00am
START 10am KIDS RACE: \$5/12:00

8-10-97 RUBY CHALLENGE

Ruby Campgrounds, Port Huron
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 8/4, \$25 day of.
REG. 8am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Exp 10am, Spt 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm
KIDS RACE \$5/2:15pm

8-31-97 GARLAND HAMMER

Garland Resort, Lewiston
Larry Kinney, (800)968-0042
FEE: \$20 by 8/25, \$25 day of.
REG. 1/2hr. prior to race
START: To be announced KIDS RACE \$5/TBA

9-14-97 MIKE COOL MEMORIAL CHALLENGE

Cool Ski Area, Leroy
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 9/8, \$25 day of. REG. 10-11:30am
START: 12:00pm KIDS RACE \$5/10am

9-21-97 ADDISON OAKS FALL MTB RACE

Addison Oaks County Park, Leonard
Oakland County Parks, (810)858-4647
FEE:\$20 by 9/15, \$25 day of
REG. 9am to 1/2hr before Start
START: Beg 11am, Exp/Spt 1:30
KIDS RACE 10am

10-5-97 OKTOBERFEST AT SCHUSS MOUNTAIN

Schuss Ski Resort, Bellaire
Active Sports, (616)458-7345
FEE:\$20 by 9/29, \$25 day of
START: TBA

10-19-97 CANNONSBURG CHALLENGE

Cannonburg Ski Area, Grand Rapids
Fun Promotions, (616)453-4245
FEE:\$20 by 10/13, \$25 day of.
REG. 8:30 to 1:30
START: Exp 10am, Spt 12:30pm, Beg 2:45pm
KIDS RACE \$5/2:30pm



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810-635-7844

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Fitness
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810-646-7565

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810-680-1777

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Westland
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Dearborn
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D & D Bicycles
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D & D Bicycles
Port Huron
810-385-1313



Bikes - All other sections in our chapter are open. Don't always ride from the Marilla

Trailhead, let's

spread ourselves out a bit, there are other neat sections that I'll bet you've never ridden. For a change ride M-55 south to Baldwin 47 miles of Great Single-track. Marilla Trailhead NORTH is neat. (Oh, I know, they won't quite match the "classic NCT", but they'll be an adventure, too. Baxter Bridge west to Harvey Bridge. Don't underestimate it, 13 miles each way is a full day.

Manistee Lake (East of Kalkaska) on Co Rd 612, a hard to find, rarely used trail. **Schuss Mountain NORBA Race Trail**...ride it before the bulldozers do. Next year it'll be a golf-course and a condo development.

The VASA Pathway Addition - 13 miles of good single-track (see below) - Park at the 1st 2-track 1/4 mile past the Steel Powerline on Supply Road (road to S. Boardman) Southeast of TC, signs, etc. in the Spring. On November 14th, 1996, we were given permission to preliminarily mark the 13 mile trail, we're working on a "Volunteer Agreement" to be signed in the Spring and the dedication on this pilot program will follow soon after it has been signed.

Don't forget Sugar Loaf in Leelanau County.

Mid-State Chapter *

By: Lisa Lazaroff

The Mid-State chapter has an exciting year ahead. Our focus will be on fun for everyone, of all riding abilities. Since the chapter doesn't have a "trail" to call our own, we'll be offering our volunteer services to other chapters as they need help. Anyone who would like to volunteer at any trail days or chapter events, please contact Lisa at (313)997-3465 or (517) 782-9093. Those of you with email capabilities can reach me at:

LAZAROL@AA.WL.COM
See back cover for more info!

Northern Chapter

By: Dennis Bean Larson


I am acting President of the Northern Michigan Chapter, and I hope to take the official reigns of the office very soon. I recently sent information to share with you on the status of things in the North country.

General Trail Status Info:

Cadillac Pathway - North of Cadillac - off Boon Road is open to bikes.

NCT - 80 miles open - The section North from M-55 to Dilling Road is closed to Mt.

(*Also call Mid-Michigan Chapter)



Savage Marketing is proud to support the

MMBA

Complimentary, great tasting **Stoker Bars** will be available for workers at all MMBA maintenance days across the state.

Stop by the Savage Marketing's "Swift and Sweet" event booth at any MMBA Point Series race to sample all Stoker's great flavors.

High Country Pathway -

Gaylord - All open including the Shingle Mill Trail 11 miles East of Vanderbilt. Jordan River Pathway - Closed to Mt Bikes. Mason Tract - Grayling - Closed to Mt Bikes. NEW

The Leelanau Trail - 15 mile controversial Rail-Trail from the West side of Traverse City to Suttons Bay.

Peninsula Twp Park.....Call before riding...no map, primitive unlinked, unmarked trails. A new management plan is being developed for the park.

Other sites ????

Call me with info.

March 18th, 7pm is the date of our Annual Winter Meeting. Call me (Dennis) for Site Information. As stated we hope to dedicate the new 13 mile

VASA addition, the date will be announced soon, perhaps in June. On National Trails Day, a cleanup will probably be done on the North Country Trail. In July we hope to do Cadillac Pathway Trail Work and in August look for the 1st Annual "Non-Event" Gathering. Come the spring of 97 - check with Brickwheels (616) 947-4274, I'm sure they'll have a downhill or cyclocross series out at Timberlee like last year.

Regular Rides: Tuesday Night at the VASA Trailhead. Start at 6:30 but, know the trails and be prepared to ride. Monday, 6pm, Cherry Capital Cycling Club Touring Section Road Ride - Old Mission 20-40 miles, meet at TC High School Call (616) 941-RIDE for full info. Tuesday 6 pm Road Racing Section Meets at TC High School. Wednesday 6pm various locations is a touring section. Thursday 6pm Mt Bike Group at VASA Trailhead usually, again just check the Rideline for all times and dates.

Other cities that have info on regularly scheduled rides let me know and I'll update the list.
Calling Gaylord,,,
Calling Grayling,,,
Calling Cadillac,,,
Calling Manistee,,,
Calling Petoskey,,,
Give me info.

Links To Cycling UP-North
<http://www.aliens.com/personal/yukon/bike.html>. Links by Dave Buck Editor of the Cherry Capital Cycling Club.

North Country Trail USFS Section Marilla Trailhead to Dilling Road Doug Nelson....(616) 774-0154.

Note: North Country Trail USFS Section M-55 South Persons/Baxter Bridge to Marilla Trailhead Contact Person Needed.

North Country Trail Manistee Lakes Area contact also needed.

Dennis Bean-Larson - VASA Contact and Acting Northern Chapter President, Other VASA contacts: Ed Andres (616) 938-9286..Mike Schaeffer, Kaye Krapohl, John Korsog, Bruce Bodjack, and John Roe.

Northern Chapter Board Members: President(E) - Dennis Bean-Larson, Vice President - Open, Secretary/Treasurer - Jerry Nilsson - Cadillac (616) 775-1959. Thanks to Shirley Johnson —where ever you are for getting this Chapter started back in 1994, and for organizing those crucial first trail maintenance projects on the North Country Trail. **Bike Shops!!!! - If you need MMBA applications call Pat Hall 616 938-9763.** Comments? Additions? Want to join? Want to volunteer? Contact: Dennis Bean-Larson, 6537 Marsh Road, Kingsley, MI 49649 / res: 616-263-7383 fax: 616-941-4500 email:

beanlarson@michcom.com

Northeast Chapter

By: Todd M. Dewell

The Northeast chapter is anticipating a busy 1997. Our primary goal will be new trail development in the greater Tri-City area. Northeast Chapter members: Kevin Bouck, Randy Wallace, and Steve Wilson have been working hard at putting together a strategic plan, and

proposal for the new trail.

Our chapter is proud of its accomplishments on behalf of mountain bikers, and all trail users at the Pine Haven Recreation Area in Midland County. We have built a good relationship with Midland County Parks and Recreation, and the Ogemaw Hills Ski Council, and look forward to working them in the future.

Northeast Chapter V.P., Kevin Bouck, has been busy preparing a grant proposal to purchase a Kawaski mule utility vehicle to be used by Midland County Parks and Recreation to maintain the trails and parks. Kevin was instrumental in our chapter receiving a Dalmac grant last year to purchase needed trail maintenance material that we used to shore up eroded areas on the Pine Haven trails. Our plan this year is to, again, access grant monies for trail development and maintenance projects in both Midland and Ogemaw counties.

The Northeast Chapter has helped the Ogemaw Hills Ski Council by contributing money for 1000 pounds of speedy dry material to be used on the sandy eroded areas on the pathway. This material was used successfully at the Fort Custer Recreation Area by the Southwest Chapter.

Holly/Flint Chapter

By: V.P Rick Jerrell

The board of the Holly/Flint Chapter would like to thank all Chapter members and friends for their efforts in making this year's

(Continued next page)

(continued from last page)

MMBA Annual Meeting a true success. Congratulations to the winners of this year's "**Holly/Flint Chapter Volunteer of the Year Award**" - Randy Estes and Family (Charlene and January). **We Thank You**, the riders **Thank You** and Holdridge Lakes **Thanks You!!!**

February marked the first meeting of the Friends of Holly Recreation Area (in which the Chapter was involved). We will keep all members informed as the group evolves. This last year has seen many positive events to lead us into 1997...starting with a 43% increase in membership, an ongoing and incredible relationship with the Holly Recreation area and the DNR's permission to reclaim trail on the east side of Hess Rd. Also, a very positive relationship with all of Holly / Flint Area Bike Shops, and the growing enthusiasm toward all of the Chapter's Events.

This year's first Chapter Event will be...**Our 3rd St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital "Wheel for Life" Bike-a-thon**. To be held at Indian Springs Metro park on April 20th from 1-4pm. The Bike-a-thon will be on their paved multi-path system. Information will be provided in Chapter mailings or call Event Coordinator, Charlene Estes at 810-634-5820.

At the time this reaches print, work on the East Trail will have been started. If any MMBA member is interested in "being a part" of the Trail Expansion at Holdridge Lakes...Please Call and join The Trail Team! Call Rick at 810-634-7691 or Kirk at 810-634-4091.

Potawatomi Chapter

Brighton Trail Expansion

In October '96, MMBA members and Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) representatives hiked 3 miles of a newly blazed mountain bike trail at Brighton Recreation Area. **The DNR liked what they saw, and along with a trail maintenance commitment from the Potawatomi Chapter of the MMBA**, they approved a proposal to cut 15 miles of new multi-use trail.

Currently, the "old", trail at Brighton recreation area consists of a 5 mile and a 2 mile loop that has features very similar to the Potawatomi. The overall short length of this trail has encouraged bikers to ride multiple laps and resulted in riders encountering the same hikers two or three times in a single ride.

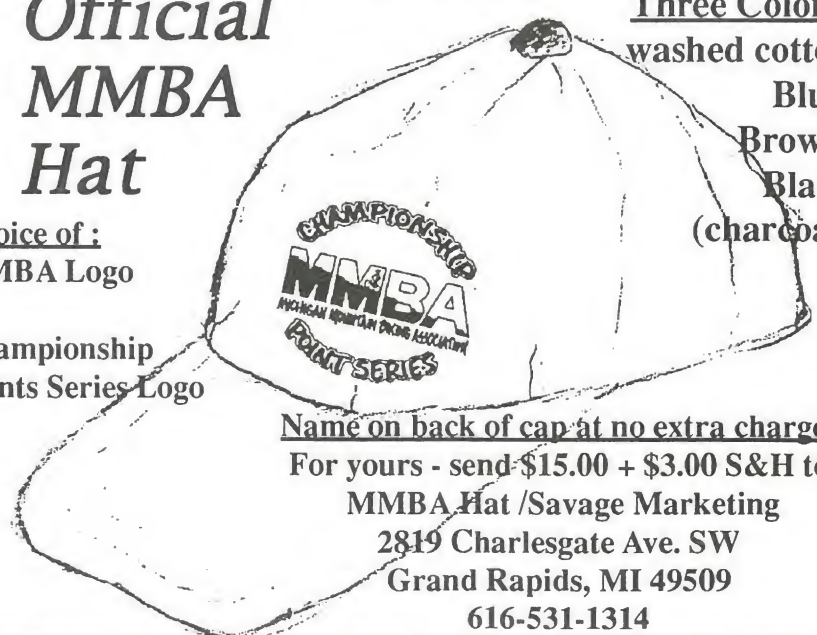
Chris Hescheles, a Brighton mountain biker, saw the potential

for a larger trail at Brighton and realized this would reduce "overencounters*". Last year, he worked with Brighton Recreation Area to develop a plan for a 3-mile loop, 15-mile multi-use trail system that would be separate from the 'old' trail. Chris initially blazed 3 miles of trail and this is what was shown to the DNR. The old trail will become a hiking only trail once the new system is complete.

Trail cutting has all ready started! More cutting dates will be scheduled through the late winter and early spring. **As dates are set, they will be placed on the Poto Chapter hotline: 313-663-9940**. If you are interested in volunteering please leave a message at 313 663-3113 and we'll call about the next trail cleaning date. Brighton Recreation Area is in Brighton west of M-23 and can be accessed from the Silver Lake Exit off M-23. The park phone number is 810-229-6566.

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* "overencounters" - when a hiker is met by a biker on a trail over and over again during a short period of time. The biker is generally doing laps.

for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the washing machine and/or dryer. Though the list of uses for this shirt (i.e. freezer bag, hand cloth, signal flag, formal wear, doo-rag, etc.) are

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Please, in the interest of safety: Always make sure your head is securely fastened on before inserting it into anything. Not responsible for shirt put on backwards or upside down. Always remove shirt before putting it into the washing machine and/or dryer. Though the list of uses for this shirt (i.e. freezer bag, hand cloth, signal flag, formal wear, doo-rag, etc.) are very extensive it is not recommended for use as a birth-control device. Read all instructions before use.

THE CLASSIFIED SECTION

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Membership 1997

We began the year with 1295 members, received applications from 535 individuals and businesses, had 29 people renew their memberships that had expired in 1995.

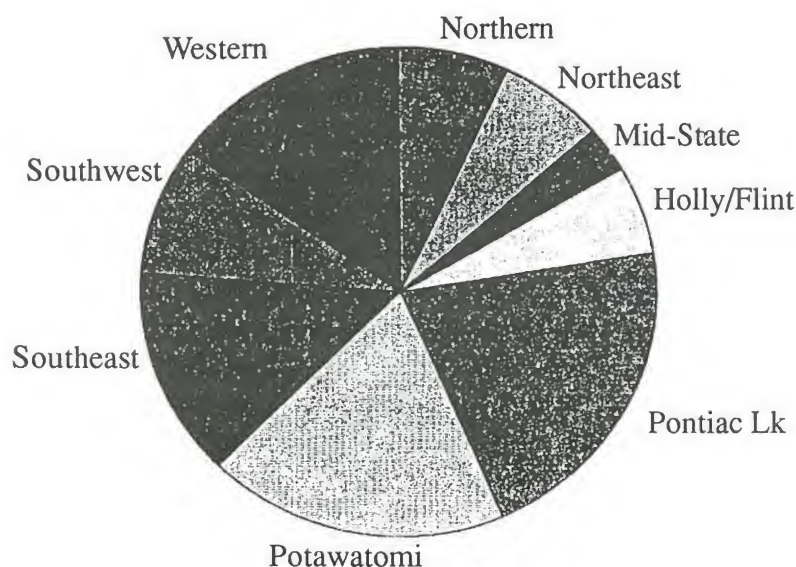
Table 1 -

Membership for 1996 by chapter: 1/1/96
 Members In Good Standing: 1295
 New: 535
 Past-Due Renewals: 29
 Expired Memberships: (496)
 1/1/97 Members In Good Standing: 1363

The effect of this activity was a net increase of 68 members or 5.25%, which compares with a 12% increase for 1995 and a 56% increase in 1994. The renewal rate for 1996 was 61.7%.

The 1363 members breaks down to 1309 individuals and families, and 54 bike shops, businesses, and race promoters. Disappointingly, the 54 professional memberships are down from 57 last year and 76 in 1994.

Membership by Chapter 1996



Membership By Anniversary Month 1996

By Fred Tyszka

The late winter season is here and the Park area has taken on a stark, harsh beauty. Blacks, whites and grays with a splash of green pine boughs and a red dash of the stems of the Osier Dogwood are the main colors seen now.

This is when the diehard, 'nose to trail' mountain bikers will notice that the trails are no longer gray and mucky, but hard, cold and sometimes covered with white stuff well into spring. Then again sometimes not. Should a wipe-out occur during this season, it is a back landing that is

you had a boring night-life...). The rider will also see a myriad of animal tracks sometimes in the snow, sometimes in the thawing ground.

This is a good time to study animal tracks and to view their winter movement patterns. Raised ridges in the snow, for example, show where mice have burrowed under the white fluff. It helps to protect them from predators and when you are a low number on the food chain and your average life span is only 4 days, it is nice to have some protection. But with spring on the way it won't last long. In the

A lot of growth is occurring now. Remember how fall was mentioned as the "dead season"? Well, a lot of things are happening in winter and early spring. Look at the tree branches, you can see the new, fresh-looking growth on the branch ends as well as next summer's swollen leaf buds. If you kick the snow aside you will find green plants and if you were "Super Person" (a politically correct Superman / woman) your X-ray vision would see the root growth occurring underground. Toward the end of winter, circles of bare ground will be noticed around the tree

trunks, caused by the trees starting to get active at the root level and bringing up some warmth from the areas below the frost line, as well as the warmth

caused by cellular activity: a sure sign that Spring is coming.

A fun thing to do during the winter is to have a hot dog roast. A hot dog will never taste better than when it is cooked over a fire in all the snow and cold. It will taste excellent, better than a steak, even without the mustard, ketchup or onions. If you don't believe me try it, better yet - try it with a bunch of kids.

And while you're out of doors you can study the amazing engineering of the birds' nests and the paper wasps' nests. Then start looking for the animal

RIDING BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE



RIDING BOTH SIDES OF THE FENCE

preferred over a nose dive. Once the basic body functions have started up again after the crash, it can be noticed that the leaves have been off the trees for some time now and little blobs can be seen in the branches of the surrounding plants. These blobs are the summer homes for animals as birds' nests, squirrels' nests, and remains of paper wasps' nests that were hidden by the leaves.

As our dauntless trail rider begins to regain his feet he may notice that the dust in the snow is hopping around that they look like fleas. These are Springtails and have the nickname "Snow Fleas". They freeze solid at night and then thaw out during the daylight hours (and you thought

The Pontiac lake Recreation Area has a reputation for being "trail - user friendly". The horse riders are amazed by the politeness of the mountain bikers and hunters who stop and let the horses pass. The mountain bikers are amazed by the horse people and the hunters who are willing to help them with their problems.

meantime though, snow is an excellent insulator, inch for inch equal to fiberglass, so the tunnels are cozier compared to the cold windy surface.

Attention All Trail Volunteers!



First Across The Finish-line Awards:

- Volunteers with 10 hours of trail work will be eligible for awards
- All riders will benefit from better trails
- Trail volunteer hours will be tallied more efficiently and info sent to IMBA/DNR/USFS/etc.
- The program will continue to develop and enhance our volunteer relationship with land managers around the state
- Increase involvement in the MMBA
- Increase visibility and inspire involvement of all mountain bikers in the MMBA
- It will just plain add to the fun factor of being a member of the MMBA

tracks and guessing what made them and what direction they took.

RANGER PET PEEVES - No not today's issue. Instead, a thank you to the clubs and people that help the park and all the people that use it. The groups who spend a lot of time are: The Pontiac Lake Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Bike Association, The Pontiac Lake Horseman's Chapter of the Michigan Trail Riders Association, The Oakland County Sportsmen's Club of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Individual members of the Pontiac Lake Homeowner's Association, The society for

Creative Anachronism "Hawkland Moor", Good Sams Club #32, Pontiac Miniature Aircraft Club, The Friends of the Pontiac Lake Recreation Area, and a lot of individual citizens who do conservation projects on their own. And finally a thank you to all our trail users.

The Pontiac lake Recreation Area has a reputation for being "trail user friendly". The horse riders are amazed by the politeness of the mountain bikers and hunters who stop and let the horses pass. The mountain bikers are amazed by the horse people and the hunters who are willing to help them with their problems. Comments are heard that these

Starting this year the MMBA is elated to announce that an anonymous donor has made it possible to institute a new Trail Volunteer Awards Program. Over the course of the next two years, awards will be given to exceptional trail volunteers totaling over \$10,000.00! Yes, ten thousand dollars! The program will be called the:

"First Across The Finish-line Awards".

In the past, trail volunteers have so often gone unrecognized and unrewarded for their efforts to make mountain biking possible for all of us recreational riders and racers alike. No more. Volunteers who go above and beyond the call of trail responsibility will now be recognized in a very, very special way at the MMBA Annual Meetings in the years to come. The requirements for awards are being worked out at this time and a complete list of requirements will be made available soon to your chapter presidents.

To find out more about the program, contact your local chapter president soon or the MMBA office at 616-785-0120.

\$10,000 Worth of Awards To Be Given Out To Trail Volunteers!!!

groups are not that friendly to each other where they usually share the trails. But not here.

So if you have an attitude - stay away from Pontiac lake Recreation Area. If you do not have an attitude, then welcome - come on down and see the snow fleas, have a hotdog and welcome spring as it comes around the corner. And do not wait for an accident to enjoy nature. Once in a while go slow and look around, all around, even upwards, or even stop for a moment and use your other senses - smell the woods, listen to the animals, touch the trees, just don't do it in the middle of the trail.

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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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Special Thanks To: 1997 Paul Bunyan Mountain Bike Series - Michigan Cyclist and Tailwind Enterprises: \$1.00 from each registration at the 3 race winter series goes to the local chapter of the MMBA to aid in trail maintenance and development.

10% MEMBER CLUB BUSINESS

AS AN MMBA MEMBER YOU RECEIVED A LIST OF THE 10% MEMBERS WHEN YOU JOINED AND/OR WILL RENEW MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR. IF YOUR SHOP/MANUFACTURER WOULD LIKE TO BECOME AN MMBA 10% MEMBER IN ADDITION TO BEING A PROUD SHOP/MANUFACTURER MEMBER OF THE MMBA JUST CALL 616-785-0120 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

A REMINDER TO ALL MMBA MEMBERS: ALL THE SHOPS/MANUFACTURERS ON THE LAST PAGE ARE SPECIAL. THEY SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS ON THE TRAIL AND IN THE MMBA POINTS SERIES. THEY DESERVE YOUR PATRONAGE!!!!!!

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Attention all MMBA 10% Club bike shop participants please send me an updated business card size ad for inclusion in the next issue of the BRB. New ad submission deadline: April 30 1997. Please don't delay!



MI, Trek Rep. Mike Jones presents Kevin Livingston of Farmington Hills with a Y50 Trek Frame provide by Michigan Trek Dealers

relates to volunteering on the trail. No matter what is said about the hustle and bustle of today's modern pace, time is the most precious resource we ever could hope to conserve and master. I know there is not one of you who is reading this that is not thinking, "Wow, where does the time go...I'm late already for this or that..." But volunteering 20 hours to trail care a year would change your life.

Period.

If you ride the trails, the list of excuses for not taking one riding session off and doing a work session on your favorite trail is meaningless. How far would you get if you rode without a water bottle or food? How much better do you ride when you are properly hydrated and fueled? Some of our trails see

thousands of users (bikers, hikers, scout outings, hunters, etc.) each year. Impact to the trail is inevitable. We want people on the trails, that is why they are there. But we also want trails that are ribbons through the woods and not washed out by rain, widened by poor design and extreme use, bridges that are not safe to cross, missing trail-head info and maps, etc. These things can be achieved in only one way in this day and age - through volunteer help. One might argue to pay more money through taxes or user fees, but if we all just spent \$40.00, about 4 hours on the trail each year, we basi-

cally would have the trails that we want: designed by trail users, for trail users, cared for by trail users, effectively cutting out the middle man/woman - and in essence having more control over "trail destinies". I would ask that each one of you this year give just 4 solid hours of trail care, let alone 20. And if you don't have a great time out on the trail both helping and then riding, then, heck, take your twelve cents a day and find something more fun to do with it, like staying home and watching

one of three hundred rerun channels on the TV. Don't be blind. 20/20/20 is a vision of mountain biking in the 21st century.

Michigan's Vision Is Pretty Close To 20/20/20

If any state in the country is reaching for the "vision" IMBA has, it is the MMBA. Though we have a ways to go, we are well on our journey towards shaping a clear focus of the needs and goals for trail use in the 21st century. At the 1997 Annual Meeting, the MMBA was recognized for this "vision" by IMBA. In an announcement to the MMBA membership in attendance at the meeting, IMBA noted that Michigan's success as a Model Program in the nation continues today (the MMBA received an



Gordon Allen, Volunteer of the Year is Presented with an IMBA Jersey by Jim Hansenauer, Educational Director IMBA and 1997 Annual Meeting guest speaker.

award from IMBA in 1993). IMBA is still committed to that success. Ultimately, Jim Hasenauer explained that IMBA has worked out a partnership with the **Subaru Corporation** and is to receive a fleet of Subaru Outbacks to be used throughout the country in the notable endeavors of volunteer trail-related activities (see story on page 8). Michigan is to receive one of the Subaru Outbacks for the executive director to use. As was noted in the last issue of the BRB, thousands and thousands of miles were logged throughout Michigan and the surrounding region representing the needs and goals of mountain bikers on our public lands.

This commitment by IMBA and Subaru further demonstrates

the potential for a growing, comprehensive and strong trails' program with the support of riders, the bicycle industry and related corporations. The Subaru Outback will have the IMBA and MMBA logos on it and is tentatively scheduled to arrive sometime later this spring. When you see this vehicle, it will serve as a reminder that the "vision" for a strong healthy trail system is out there and support is growing. The limits to trail development in the coming years both here in Michigan and around the country, will only be limited by your "vision". Support the MMBA, support the IMBA/Subaru Program, support the trails you love to ride. Put on your philanthropic glasses and get 20/20 vision. **You'll see what mountain biking is really about for the very first time.**

Annual Meeting Thank You's

Oakland Co.

Parks- For the use of the annual meeting facility including: L.C. Scramlin / Springfield Oaks County Park, Sue Wells-Delridge Chief Of Recreation, Oakland County Parks and Jim Donlevy - Oakland County Parks and Recreation

International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA)

for swag for Volunteers of the Year Awards and assistance in getting Jim Hasenauer to the meeting.

TREK Bicycle Dealers of Michigan and **TREK USA** for support of the 1996 MMBA Championship Point Series, MMBA Championship Point Series Awards, Volunteer of the Year Awards and assisting IMBA and the MMBA for securing our guest speaker.

American Direct/Optek Sunglasses - 45 E. Loucks, Suite 19 Sheridan, WY 82801 for providing sunglasses to MMBA Championship Points Series Winners (Sport, Expert, Elite classes) and Volunteer of the Year Award winners.

Savage Marketing/Stoker Bar (616)531-1314 for providing gifts to the children in attendance at the annual meeting.

The **Holly Chapter**, and especially **Kirk Costello** for the set up and organization of the 1997 Annual Meeting: **it could not have been done without your help, Kirk!** And all the MMBA members who make the work of the MMBA possible with their support!

Finally Congratulations To:

- Championship Points Series Participants!
- Gordon Allen -MMBA Volunteer of the Year/ Points Series Director
- Winner of the Trek Frame, Kevin Livingston of Farmington Hills
- Southeast Chapter of the MMBA for their winning booth
- All MMBA Volunteers!
- Northeast: Kevin Bouck
- Northern: Doug Nelson
- Potawatomi: Chris Hescheles/ Jason Jones
- Mid-State: Sandra Davison
- Holly/Flint: Randy Estes & Family
- Southeast: Wes Watt
- Southwest: Mike Needham



Jim Hasenauer, Educational Director for IMBA shares IMBA's "20/20 Vision" to a crowd of about 350 at the 1997 MMBA Annual Meeting.

Mid-State Chapter of the MMBA DATE/EVENT

More information regarding these events coming to a mailbox near you!
Questions??? call Lisa at 517-782-9093 (313) 997-3465

Southwest Chapter of the MMBA

Sun 5/4 Fort Custer Stampede - Benefit @ Fort Custer Re. Area
More Info call Mike Huber @ 616-382-6478

Sun 4/20 St. Jude's Childrens Hospital "Wheel For Life"
Bike-a-thon: Call 810-634-5820

“A good man/woman is always a beginner....” Martial c. 40-c. 104